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Enclosure: (a) Identi-Kit Field Test Report (1 copy)

1. At the time of your last visit to this area, Herman requested that a copy of the report of the Identi-Kit field tests prepared by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office be forwarded as soon as it was received.

2. Enclosed is one copy of this report. Please forward it to Herman.

Very truly yours,

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NOTICE

This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, USC, Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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**DEPARTMENT OF SHERIFF
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PETER J. FITCHES, SHERIFF**

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May 29, 1979

REPORT OF IDENTI-KIT FIELD TEST

**It is the purpose of this paper to report the results of
a field test of the Identi-Kit produced by [REDACTED]**

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**[REDACTED] This report is submitted pursuant to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] agreement of January 1, 1979.**

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Briefly, the terms of the agreement are that [REDACTED]

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**[REDACTED] would provide Identi-Kits to the Los Angeles
County Sheriff's Department at no charge for the purpose of having
the Department field test the Identi-Kit and submit to [REDACTED]**

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[REDACTED] a written report of the results of this test.

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**This report is divided into four parts: (1) The Purpose of
the Field Test (2) Test Methodology (3) Findings, and (4) Eval-
uation.**

I. Purpose of The Field Test

**The reason for field testing the Identi-Kit was to determine
the usefulness in law enforcement work of an entirely new concept in
the identification of criminals and suspected criminals.**

**One phase of the test was designed to determine the
feasibility of "building up" faces by super-imposing Identi-Kit slides
bearing facial components into the likeness of a suspect described**

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by the victim of a crime.

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The other phase of the test examines what is really a by-product of the "face making" operation. It is the coding of existing photographs according to the system used by the Identi-Kit. The theory was that a face created with the Identi-Kit would bear code symbols that could be used to locate photographs of known criminals which were filed according to this system.

II. Test Methodology

The methods, goals and personnel involved in testing the Identi-Kit system of identification are described in detail below. Reference is made to an Identi-Kit system rather than the Identi-Kit itself in order to place the device in its proper perspective. The Identi-Kit is used as a key in a unique identification process described above. It is the process as much as the device itself which was tested.

Personnel In The Study. Personnel participating in the field test included one instructor and four deputy sheriffs. The instructor was an expert in the use of the Identi-Kit and had wide experience in interrogating witnesses and victims who could describe a suspect. The four deputy sheriffs (hereafter referred to as operators) were selected in a random manner from the L. A. County Sheriff's Department. The only criterion used in selecting operators was of a screening nature. No operator could have previous training in visual identification, in art or in portrait work.

These four operators were trained in the use of the Identi-Kit for approximately 20 hours. The training consisted of: (1) a brief

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presentation of the concept of visual identification, (2) a demonstration of the machine, (3) practice in building composites until the operators were thoroughly familiar with the mechanical operation of the Identi-Kit and thoroughly acquainted with its limitations and potentialities.

After training, the operators were assigned to a central headquarters unit, the Identification Section of the Division of Technical Services, where their services were available on a demand basis from Sheriff's stations or other headquarters units. Two deputies worked the day shift from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and the other two worked from 4:00 P.M. to Midnight. They would, however, accept calls at any hour of the day or night at their homes in the event of emergencies. The men were alternated to cover weekends.

Operation Of The Test For a period of 40 days the deputies had two basic duties: (1) respond to requests of detective investigators to build composites, and (2) establish a "mug" file of photographs and composites filed according to the Identi-Kit coding system.

The composites were built as soon as possible after the reporting of serious crimes when a witness or victim could give a description of the suspect. This was done, if practical, at the scene of the crime, by taking Identi-Kits into the field and performing interrogations before the mental image was faded or distorted through the passage of time. Early interrogation of eye witnesses is important in obtaining accurate descriptions.

When the operators were not required in the field to build

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composites, they were coding selected photographs of known murderers, rapists, robbers, etc., by assigning appropriate code symbols to key features, such as hair, eyes, nose, ears, and chin. These photographs were then filed according to the code numbers. When a composite was prepared from a recent crime, the codes from the composites were used to search the "mag" file of known suspects bearing similar features.

Information Desired From The Test. The field test of the Identi-Kit system of identification was designed to answer several questions that could be answered in no other way. An adequate evaluation must answer the following questions:

1. In an operating law enforcement agency, can police personnel at the entry level be trained to make composites with no previous art or visual identification experience?
2. Can the composites be made in a reasonable time?
3. Do the composites prove to be a good likeness?
4. Can the composites be converted to a permanent form, like a photograph?
5. Can photographs be efficiently coded by the Identi-Kit system?
6. Can coded photographs be efficiently filed and found if filed by the code numbers?
7. What are the limitations of the system?
8. Are there other advantages or disadvantages not readily apparent in the system?

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III Findings Of The Test

After the conclusion of the test, answers to the questions posed above were readily available in the findings of the test.

The four deputies, the entry level for police personnel, who acted as operators had no experience in visual identification prior to the test. They were able to operate the Identi-Kit properly after 20 hours of training.

The new function of the Identi-Kit identification soon became a well integrated part of detective investigations as may be seen in the number of cases worked. During the 40 day period, 123 cases were worked, or about 3 cases per day. These were all cases of a more serious nature, the volume of which indicated a ready acceptance on the part of investigators for assistance the device could give.

The Identi-Kit system also came to the attention of agencies other than the Sheriff's Department. Cases worked by Sheriff's detectives included cases for other cities. All agencies that made use of the device during the test period were favorably impressed with the results obtained, and all indicated their interest in obtaining an Identi-Kit for their own use.

The cases worked are shown below:

Murder.....	2
Attempted murder.....	1
Kidnapping.....	11
Robbery.....	47
Burglary.....	13
Grand Theft.....	2
Forgery.....	1
ADW.....	6
Sex crimes.....	40

Total..... 123

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By the end of the testing period, the operators were able to develop composites in the field in an average of 20 minutes for each composite. The average time required for the Sheriff's Department Staff Artist to draw a similar likeness is estimated at 4 hours. The composites made with the Identi-Kit do not have the advantage of shading which an artist can give.

In every case composites could be built to the satisfaction of eye witnesses, and when the artist also worked the case, composites closely compared with the artist's conception. Of the 123 cases worked, 18 cases were cleared by arrest. Of these 16, or 88% of the suspects were easily identifiable from the composites. The percentage of direct assists to arrests as a result of Identi-Kit composites was 16%.

The composites, consisting of several layers of clear plastic with facial features and code numbers, were easily photographed and an indefinite number of accurate reproductions could be made.

Selected photographs of known criminals were coded according to the type of hairline, eyes, nose, ears and lips. These photographs were filed by code. Average time for this operation by the end of the test period was 10 minutes. During the test 200 photographs were coded and filed. When a composite was made, its code could be compared to photographs in the file. Finding time required approximately 40 seconds. Despite the relatively small number of "mugs" filed, 11% of the suspects apprehended with the Identi-Kit composites were tied to more than one crime. The number of photographs selected from the filing system and sent to the investigators as a

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direct result of comparing composites with mug shots of known suspects was 100.

During the conduct of the test several weaknesses in the lack of hairline slides were noticed. Certain age line groups were also lacking, as were slides depicting some types of hats, glasses and facial marks. These weaknesses were the subject of a separate report and new slides are being made to eliminate them.

An unexpected benefit derived from the use of Identi-Kit . During the test all agencies and officers who became acquainted with the device were impressed by the tremendous potential as a public relations factor. It has been pointed out that once an agency begins using the Kit, public relations programs with business organizations, merchants, and the public at large could be inaugurated, all of which will lead to better results from the Kit, and a better understanding on the part of the general public with the problems faced by law enforcement.

IV Evaluation

It is evident from the findings of the test that the Identi-Kit performs a practical, easily obtainable service to law enforcement in the field of identification.

The Identi-Kit provides an effective method of visual identification which can be converted to codes and transmitted, if desired, to a world wide network of Identi-Kit systems.

The system is feasible to operate in terms of personnel requirements, speed of operation, reliability and overall benefit to the investigator.

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A cost analysis cannot be reliably prepared for this system. The early identification and capture of a murder or kidnapping suspect may save literally thousands of man hours. Also, the savings in direct, practical assists to investigators cannot be measured. However, it is apparent from the findings that the percentage of assists far exceeds that of other identification methods now being used, such as fingerprints, artist's conceptions, handwriting and general descriptions.

Direct costs are nominal. Lease of the Identi-Kit is \$300 per year. Competent personnel can easily be found at the entry level of the Sheriff's Department to operate the system. Field test experience indicated an additional annual cost of \$50 for photographic materials. There is no doubt that the benefits derived from this system are more than worth the cost.

As a result of this field test, The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has adopted the Identi-Kit system as an additional permanent function of the Identification Bureau. At least four deputies will be assigned to its operations. It is the majority opinion of Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess and his staff that the Identi-Kit will be an important part in the never ending struggle against the inroads of crime.

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COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	
<p>Remarks: Los Angeles County Sheriff's office ran this study on our ID Kit and found it to be operationally useful. CI Staff has responsibility and is currently evaluating the Kit. It ^{would} appear that if L.A. can find it useful our people should be able to.</p>					
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